Behind her is a widow with her daughter and son; and farther back, humbly seated, is a deserted female with her infant."

The male figures placed together, on the left of the spectator, contrast well with the group of girls and children.

"The Life of Alfred" (No. 4), has merit of a high order. The figure of the king, who is represented as dividing his loaf with the pilgrim, has great dignity. It is well adapted for fresco.

"Queen Philippa interceding for the lives of the Burgesses of Calais," (No. 10), is a work of surpassing beauty. The grouping is admirable—every head a study. Doubt, resignation, and patriotism, in the six burgesses who lay at Edward's feet the keys of their city, are finely portrayed, as are the deliberation of the king, and the anxious supplication of Philippa. The figure of the one citizen who, though with rope round his neck, is with difficulty constrained to humility by his wife, on her knees, at his feet, is well conceived. The execution, too, of the whole is excellent; and though it may be urged by the hypercritical, that the general expression is slightly exaggerated, we have no hesitation in pronouncing this a first-rate work of art.

No. 11. "Anne Askew refusing to sign the Six Articles," has in it something of earnestness and power; and the same remark will apply to a cartoon opposite to it (No. 20), "The Bishop of Carlisle denouncing Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Lancaster, when about to usurp the crown."

"Howard visiting a Prison" (No. 13) will extort admiration, though it may not give pleasure. The misery represented is perfectly appalling. The figure of Howard will be found full of feeling by those who take the trouble to study it; the upraised clutched hand shews the effect of the gaoler's recital, to which he is listening.

There is knowledge and good feeling shewn in No. 13, "Non Anglised Angeli," representing a well-known incident in the life of Pope Gregory I.

"Ancient Britons defending their Families from the Romans" (No. 18) is entitled to commendation for vigour and decision of hand. Some passages from the old masters are recognizable.

"The Meeting of Henriette Maria, Wife of Charles I." (No. 19) is not without merit; and the same may be said of (21) "The Death of Harold," and (No. 22) "Alfred, surrounded by his Family, addresses Edward, his son and successor."

No. 23. "The Welcome of the Boy-King, Henry VI. into London after his Coronation at Paris" is an exceedingly elaborate and clever work, displaying much skill and rich fancy, though somewhat confused and spotty. The King has reached the conduit in Cheapside. Art has expended its powers in decorating the spot, fountains are flowing with wine, and a crowd of knights, burgesses, and fair damsels fill the scene.

No. 25. Representing "The Seizure of Roger Mortimer, by Edward III. in Nottingham," is hardly surpassed by any in the higher qualities. The drawing is admirable and some of the details,—the chain-armour, for example, are executed with extraordinary skill. The head of King Edward is the least effective part of this otherwise most excellent cartoon.

With a word of praise for No. 27. "Spenser reading the 'Faerie Queene" to his Wife and Sir Walter Raleigh," we close our present hasty notice, written at the moment of going to press, of an exhibition which must be regarded with great interest, by all who are watching the progress of the fine arts in England.

Ancient Spear.—As the workmen were excavating for some cellarage in front of houses now building by Mr. Harding, in the Fulham-road, a spear head of copper (16 inches long with a blade of 2 inches wide projecting from a taper hollow tube of 1 inch to a fine point) was found. The copper was so decayed, as to crumble when touched. It was found 12 feet from the high road, nearly opposite the gate of the Earl's Court Cemetery, about 4 feet 6 inches from the surface of the ground.

Cameos will in future be admitted into England on payment of a duty of 5 per cent. on their value. The duty formerly levied was found to be almost prohibitory.

OLD ENGLISH CHAIR.

OLD ENGLISH CHAIR.

In our last volume we gave representations of several varieties of chairs to be found in the farm-houses and mansions of old England. The annexed engraving belongs to that series, and was postponed by accident. Solid and substantial, with something of dignity, they partake in a degree of the character of the yeoman at the time they were made, and cannot be regarded without interest by their descendants.

OPENING PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND WORKS OF ART.

The dean and chapter of Norwich have given directions for opening their cathedral to the public gratuitously for two hours on every week day, instead of one as heretofore, namely, from 11 o'clock A.M. to 1 o'clock P.M. We mentioned some months since that it was the Queen's desire that no fees should be taken from any person visiting the state apartments at Windsor Castle. It is now officially announced that none will be taken, and that tickets for the admission of visitors on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, between the hours of 11 and 4, from April to October, and 11 and 3, from October to April, may be obtained, *gratis*, at Messrs Paul and Dominic Colnaghi and Co.'s, printsellers, No. 14, Pall-mall east; Mr. Moon's printseller, No. 20, Threadneedle-street; Mr. Mitchell's, librarian, No. 33, Old Bond-street; Messrs Ackermann and Co.'s, printsellers, No. 96, Strand.

We shall be glad to hear that the verger at St. George's Chapel is behaving with more propriety than heretofore.

It is to be hoped that the arrangements at the Castle will not be nullified by the conduct of the attendants there.

We have from time to time, received many complaints against the course pursued at Westminster Abbey. Correspondents state that no one is allowed to see the building as it should be seen, being hurried from tomb to tomb, without a moment for a glimpse at the structure itself, in a manner which is ludicrous as well as annoying. We visited the Abbey a few days ago (wonderful place that it is!), and found that the statements in no way exceed the truth. The new dean, Dr. Buckland, is a zealous antiquary, and, if we remember rightly, has admitted a conviction that the contemplation of ancient buildings, and other works of fine art, has a useful effect. We respectfully call upon the very reverend gentleman to interpose his authority, and to obtain for those who pay their sixpence the quiet enjoyment of what they come to see. We look anxiously for the abolition of the charge altogether.

We hear with great gratification that the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, will probably be thrown open to the public without charge forthwith. The present sexton, who has derived a considerable income from the exhibition of the church, being about to give up the appointment, the vestry thought it a fitting opportunity to consider the question, and have virtually determined, we believe, to admit the public without requiring any fee.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

The Sheffield, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Manchester Railway was opened throughout last week. The length of the line is about 41 miles, and, in addition to the great tunnel, which is upwards of three miles in length, it has other works of a most stupendous character,—the large viaduct over Dinting Vale, consisting of five arches made of wood, of 150 feet span each, and nine of stone, of 50 feet each, and elevated 150 feet; also the wooden bridge at Broadbottom, which is said to be the highest in the world, being 17 feet higher than Menai Bridge and 11 feet higher than the Stockport viaduct. The tunnel is in the form of an ellipse turned on its end, and is 18 feet above the rail and 15 feet wide, and is nearly lined throughout with masonry. There are five shafts, ten feet in diameter, each lined with masonry; and in order that our readers may form an idea of this great work, we give the depth of each shaft: No. 1, 182 yards; No. 2, 189 yards; No. 3, 167 yards; No. 4, 193 yards; No. 5, 136 yards; and no less than 130 tons of gunpowder have been used in the cutting.——A patent has been secured by a Mr. Gorden for a new motive power, obtained from the well known expansive properties of heated air.——

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